

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed November 27, 2005, has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1, 6 and 12 have been amended. Claims 1-15 are pending in the application.

In paragraph 2 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as being based on a disclosure that is not enabling. The Office Action stated that the claims include “performing an initial burnishing operation”, which is not included in the specification.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection but in the interest of expediting prosecution have amended claims independent claims 1 and 6 and dependent claim 12 to overcome the rejection. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment to claims 1, 6 and 12 do not narrow the scope of the claims, but rather merely clarify the invention

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 was improperly rejected as claim 11 does not include the identified language that is allegedly not included in the specification. Thus, the rejection with respect to claim 11 should be withdrawn.

In paragraph 2 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-12, 14 and 15 were rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Egan et al. in view of Haddock.

In paragraph 3 on page 4 of the Office Action, claims 3, 8 and 13 were rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eagan et al. and Haddock in further view of Smith.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Egan et al. fail to even mention measuring an MR resistance for a head. Rather, Egan et al. monitor for a high fly write condition. To identify the fly high write condition, Egan et al. identifies when a low frequency range signal is present .

Accordingly, Egan et al. do not measure MR resistance.

In addition, Egan et al. focus on monitoring a high fly write condition. The high fly write condition occurs when the write head increases in temperature thereby causing the write pole to protrude.

Accordingly, Egan et al. are not relevant to measuring a heads fly height, but rather is only relevant to measuring a high fly write condition. Egan et al. only detects a condition that occurs when the write pole protrudes; not when the fly height does not meet a fly height specification.

Egan et al. also do not determine when a measured MR resistance indicates that the head has clearance. Egan et al. do not measure MR resistance. Rather, Egan et al. determines when a low frequency range signal is present. Thus, because Egan et al. does not measure MR resistance, Egan et al. cannot determine when the measured MR resistance indicates that the head has clearance.

Accordingly, Egan et al. fails to teach, disclose or suggest the elements recited in independent claims 1, 6 and 11.

Haddock and Smith fail to overcome the deficiencies of Egan et al. Haddock teaches burnishing a wear pad to obtain a desired fly height. However, Haddock fails to mention measuring an initial MR resistance for a head. Haddock also fails to mention determining whether the measured MR resistance indicates the head has clearance.

Smith merely teaches the measurement of absolute clearance between the MR transducer and the medium is for a nominal medium-transducer velocity. Smith suggests changing the velocity of the medium to identify a velocity that results in a desired fly height. However, Smith fails to disclose, teach or suggest measuring an initial MR resistance for a head to perform an initial burnishing cycle.

Accordingly, Eagan et al., Haddock and Smith, alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest Applicants' invention as recited in independent claims 1, 6 and 11.


Dependent claims 2-5, 7-10 and 12-15 are also patentable over the references, because they incorporate all of the limitations of the corresponding independent claims 1, 6 and 11, respectively. Further dependent claims 2-5, 7-10 and 12-15 recite additional novel elements and limitations. Applicants reserve the right to argue independently the patentability of these additional novel aspects. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-5, 7-10 and 12-15 are patentable over the cited references.

On the basis of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of this application and its allowance are requested.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Attorney for Applicant, David W. Lynch, at 423-757-0264.

Respectfully submitted,

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